

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05681 231909Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6497

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US NATO 1044

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5681

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY REFORM PACE SLOWED

REF: MADRID 5646

1. CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA TOLD
PRESS REPS JULY 20 THAT, CONTARY TO CUSTOM, NO OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ABOUT AN OFFICIAL
PARLIAMENTARY VACATION PERIOD BUT THAT DEPUTIES COULD
GO AHEAD WITH THEIR VACATION PLANS. BUT LEAVE THEIR
TELEPHONE NUMERS SINCE SOME MIGHT HAVE TO COME
BACK FOR URGENT COMMITTEE WORK. CORTES,
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05681 231909Z

HE SAID, ALREADY WAS WORKING UNDER AN EXTENDED MANDATE

(PROGATION) AND WOULD CONTINUE OFFICIALLY TO BE "OPEN" TO RECEIVE GOVT BILLS. SHOULD LATTER SUBMIT NEW DRAFT BILLS, THE PRESIDENT WOULD NAME A SPECIAL COMMITTEE (PONENCIA) TO REPORT ON THEM WHICH WOULD TAKE A MINUMUM OF 10 DAYS UNDER THE EXTRAORDINARY SPEED UP PROCEDURES ADOPTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVT TO ACCELERATE PASSAGE REFORM LAWS. FERNANDEZ MIRANDA WAS UNWILLING TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A PLENARY SESSION IN EARLY AUGUST.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DEPUTY JOSEP MELIA (INDEPENDENT) SAID THAT A PLENARY SESSION BEFORE SEPTEMBER IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THERE IS AT PRESENT NO IMPORTANT LEGISLATION OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER ON THE AGENDA FOR ENTACTMENT, WHILE THE NEW GOS IS DISCUSSING ITS OWN ALTERNATIVE TO THE OLD ARIAS PLAN FOR A NEW PARLIAMENT. THE GOVT HE SAID PROBABLY INTENDS TO WITHDRAW THE LAW ON ECONOMIC MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE PREVIOUS FINANCE MINISTER LAST MARCH.

4. MELIA ALONG WITH OTHERS, NOTED THE GOVT IS TRYING TO GAIN A LITTLE TIME TO SORT OUT ITS OWN DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH POLITICAL REFORM ONE GROUP OF MINISTERS FAVORS A PROSPECTIVE TYPE OF REFERENDUM AND ANOTHER PREFERS ONE WHICH HAS BEEN PROCEEDED BY RPOPOSALS APPROVED BY THE CORTES. HE AND OTHER LIKE MINDED INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES HE SAID, WERE BAFFLED BY THE GOVT'S INITAL ABSTENTION IN THE JULY 14 SESSION WHICH FINALLY APPROVED THE PENAL CODE'S REVISION AND FEARFUL THAT GOVT WOULD NOT SHOW ITS HAND AND GUIDE ITS BILLS THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY MACHINERY. THE GOVT HAS THE MEANS TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAM BY AT LEAST THREE FOURHTS OF CORTES, HE THINKS BUT HE STRESSED THAT GOVT HAD TO BE DECISIVE AND EAL WITH EMERGING PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES.

5. MELIA SAID THAT FERMANDEZ MIRANDA'S DICTATORIAL MAIPULATION OF CORTES PROCEEDINGS JULY 14 HAD LEFT BAD TAST IN THE MOUTHS OF MANY DEPUTIES. THIS LESSING OF THE STANDING OF A MAN REPUTEDLY CLOSE TO THE KING COULD CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO THE KING HIMSELF WHO ALREADY IS MORE EXPOSED TO POLITICAL CRITICISM WITH THE NAMING OF THE
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PAGE 03 MADRID 05681 231909Z

SUAREZ GOVT. FERNANDEZ MIRANDA IS ONE OF THE MAIN PROPENENTS THROUGH THE CORTES WHICH, IN MELIA'S JUDGE MENT, SEEMS TO BE THE DOMINANT VIEW IN GOVT CIRCLES.

6. ANOTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE REFORMIST DEPUTY, PEREZ PUGA TOLD US LATER THAT FROM WHAT HE HAD HEARD TODAY, THE GOS WOULD PROBABLY BY PASS THE CORTES IN A PROSPECTIVE REFEREDUM (LATE SEPTEMBER, EARLY OCTOBER) AND

THEN ARMED WITH A POPULAR MANDATE, LEGISLATE THE SPECIFICS
OF THE POLITICAL REFORMS.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A DEBATE GOING ON IN
THE GOVT ON WHAT PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW. HOW IT WILL
COME OUT IS NOT YET CERTAIN.

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